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The Problem of Southern Azerbaijan

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For the attention of The Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights, Geneva, Please circulate this letter to:

- Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights
- Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance
- The Independent Expert on Minority Issues
- The Working Group on Arbitrary Detention

CC Mr. DREWERY DYKE and Mrs. ANN HARRISON, Amnesty International, London

Also: International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights (the Oslo Branch);
Human Rights Watch; Human Rights Server and Ahmed Shahid

Dear sir/madam,

ADVANCED VERSION OF GENERAL COMMUNICATION

Please find enclosed advanced version of a General Communication under compilation related to the escalation of aggression by the Iranian authorities against Azerbaijanis in Southern Azerbaijan. This advanced version is prepared to alert you in time to the acts of the Iranian authorities, who have instigated waves of arbitrary acts at least in two fronts:

1. Arresting Southern Azerbaijani activists to prevent the marking of the International Day of Mother Language on the 21st of February.
2. To undermine the football games of Southern Azerbaijan qualified for the Asian Football Confederation Champions League, 2013. The match will be kicked off in Tebriz, the capital of Southern Azerbaijan, on 26 February between the professional club of "Tiraxtur," (which is treated as the national football team of Azerbaijan in Southern Azerbaijan) and the Al-Arabiye Football team of the United Arab Emirates.

The Iranian authorities are after a showdown to press their iron fist and claim victory, evidently to save face for:

- Their failing foreign policy and their isolation in the world arena
- The crippling impacts of the International sanctions on the economics of the Islamic Republic of Iran
- Being cracked in the middle due to the antagonism in the ranks and order of its higher governmental echelons
- The failing Iranian internal policies unable to eradicate the voice of Southern Azerbaijan victoriously firming up its mark of Azerbaijani Turkic identity throughout the territories of the historic Azerbaijan.

We attach below some of the names of Southern Azerbaijani activists who have been deprived of their liberty in recent days and weeks, as evidence for the recent arbitrary acts of the Iranian authorities. We understand that the Iranian authorities are already planning to provoke insidious acts in coming days. The intelligence gathered by Southern Azerbaijani activists paint a picture for possible actions by the Iranian authorities, unworthy of any authority. One example is that they are planning to prevent the football fans to enter to the stadium and instead to transform the stadium in Tabriz to their showpiece by Hezbollah rank-and-files to air their Iranian-style propaganda.

We are concerned with such an imminent showdown and hereby make a representation to you to resort to your mandates and create a front against the Iranian authorities to prevent their usual arbitrary acts.

Yours sincerely,

Boyuk Resuloglu

The Committee for the Defense of the Rights of World Azerbaijanis



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The names of some of the activists who have been deprived of their liberty by the Iranian authorities in recent days and weeks:

A- Those imprisoned or detained in Tebriz prison:

1. Hesən Erk
2. Höjjet-ul-islam Ebduleziz Ezimi Qedim
3. Ayet mehrelı beyli (Yürüş), affiliated to the New GAMOH (a Southern Azerbaijani political party)
4. Mahmıd Fezli, also affiliated to the New GAMOH
5. Eziz Purveli
6. Mehdi hamidi
7. Ehməd Ribazi
8. Elman Nuri
9. Şəhram dadashi
10. Yashar Piri

B- Those imprisoned or detained in Maragha prison:

1. Behbud quluzade
2. Davud Ezimzade
3. Behmen Xaliqi
4. Abbas Velizade
5. Mehdi Kukhiyan

C- Those imprisoned or detained in Khoy prison:

1. Emir Çəmənı
2. Yashar Kerimi

D- Those imprisoned or detained in Kerej prison:

1. Letif Heseni- also affiliated to the New GAMOH and its chairman